

Dear W.C.,

I am a single father raising my teenage daughter. My wife passed away from cancer five years ago so it has been my daughter and I since then. My daughter suffers from mental illness and anxiety since her mother passed and was recently hospitalized when she threatened suicide. It has been very difficult to go through this and to watch her suffer. Nothing I say or do seem to help until she began to see a new doctor that is located 45 minutes away. We go to therapy together twice a week. I cannot stop taking her now as I finally see a change in her outlook for the first time in five years. Due to all the emergency calls I received over the past few years, I have missed a lot of work. I have used up all my sick and vacation days so now missed days mean no pay. My boss is understanding but I can't expect him to pay me beyond the paid time off I already received. Gas to all these appointments is straining my budget. Then I had a blow out and had to replace all my tires because they were in such bad shape. There went our rent money. We have been eating noodles and PBJ sandwiches for the past week because that is all I can afford. I would be so grateful if you could help us with a few grocery and gas gift cards. That would help us get through the next few weeks until I am paid again. Thank you for your consideration.

Dear Readers,

I called this father to see how we could help lift the burden and stress he was under. We could not remove the pain of loss, but we could help to ease the pains of hunger and worry.

The father was greatly relieved when he learned it was The Time is Now to Help calling and not a bill collector. He admitted he had been receiving calls about unpaid medical bills and his overdue utility bill. After we talked for over an hour and I did a lot of listening and note taking, we dove into his financial situation and his budget.

I found there was a lot more need than just the gas and grocery gift cards he had requested. I asked questions about each item he had on his budget. The tires and other necessary expenses he had not mentioned had caused him to fall behind in his car payment and utilities. His daughter needed glasses, and he had gone to the emergency room with chest pain, that turned out to be stress from worrying about his daughter and their financial situation.

We spoke about learning to manage his stress and the importance of him taking care of himself, since he was the only person that could raise his daughter. They had no other family to help. The father began to cry from the weight of worry he carried. He shared how his daughter was finally getting back on track and had not called him away from his job for the past few weeks. I reminded him this was a step in the right direction, and we would help him take steps in the right direction as well.

I went over the list I had made while we spoke. We would pay their overdue rent, utilities and car payment. We also would include gift cards for gas and groceries. When I learned his daughter needed a winter coat and clothes, I included gift cards for those items. The father began to cry again but I could tell these were tears of relief. Relief from the constant stress of

poverty compounded by the many stresses in his life. We together helped to remove some of these stresses and brought support where he needed it most.

When I contacted this father two months later, I was happy to hear about the continued improvement in his daughter. He was relieved to no longer be called away from work and constantly worrying about his daughter's health. Their budget was being met comfortably. The father told me to tell all of you, "Thank you for helping my daughter and I get back on track. This has truly changed our lives."

Thank you for helping us provide poverty relief throughout our communities. Please donate at this time as all your donations will be matched by the Fall 2024 Helping Hand Up \$50,000 Matching Grant, doubling your donation. Thank "You" and God Bless "You".

Health & Happiness, Love & GOD Bless Everyone, Sal

Please Help: There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The Time Is Now to Help is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing how 100% of your donation was used for providing poverty relief.

Please visit our website to read more of our past and current columns and/or to make a donation: www.timeisnowtohelp.org Please go to the home page, follow the yellow highlighted link that says WC Letters to see current and past columns.

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Prayer Chain: The power of prayer and positive thoughts comes from the true healer, our Lord answering our prayers. Please pray for healing for the following people: Brian, Mike, Sylvia, Megan, Kayla, Maria C., Judy, Scott, Annie, Marilyn, Brandon, Helen, Dennis, Mary, Joseph, Jordan, Jean, Tom L., Dr. Peter, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Betty, Ellie, Concetta, Cheryl, Kirubel M., and Wanda L.

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